

## Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 ORM-01 ITFE-05 AID-05 L-03

H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 FDRE-00 MED-02

SP-02 /046 W

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P 151640Z JUL 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4631

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 5570

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, TH

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN THAILAND - - UNHCR

FOLLOWING FYI IS TEXT OF TELEGRAPHIC REPORT RECEIVED JULY 15  
BY UNHCR/GENEVA FROM UNHCR DIRECTOR OPERATIONS JAEGER  
RELATING LATTERS RECENT VISIT BANGKOK FOR DISCUSSIONS  
CONCERNING SUBJECT REFUGEES: QUOTE:

1. AFTER PRELIMINARY MEETING MINFORAFF HAD DETAILED  
DISCUSSIONS MINISTRY INTERIOR WITH DEPUTY MINISTER WHO IS  
CHAIRMAN THAI COMMITTEE DISPLACED PERSONS, PERMANENT  
UNDER-SECRETARY AND OTHER HIGH RANKING  
OFFICIALS DIRECTLY CONCERNED. FOLLOWING ARE PRELIMINARY  
RESULTS DISCUSSIONS WHICH WILL CONTINUE UPON OUR RETURN  
BANGKOK NEXT WEEK:

A. MAIN FEATURES THAI POSITION: GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WISH  
IN PRINCIPLE REPEAT IN PRINCIPLE ANY INDOCHINESE RECENTLY  
ARRIVED TO SETTLE PERMANENTLY. THIS PUBLIC POSTURE  
EXPLICABLE ON POLITICAL GROUNDS PARTICULARLY IN CONTEXT  
GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONSHIPS IN HIGHLY SENSITIVE AREAS  
AND CHARGED ATMOSPHERE. HOWEVER, IT IS FULLY  
REALIZED THAT REMNANTS OF OVERALL PROBLEMS MAY REMAIN AT  
LEAST TWO TO THREE YEARS.

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B. IN CONTEXT ABOVE GOVERNMENT FAVORS PRIMARILY REPATRIATION AND SECONDLY RESETTLEMENT THIRD COUNTRY. WHILE THESE TWO SOLUTIONS EXPECTED SOLVE PROBLEM SOUTH VIETNAMESE, IT IS REALIZED THAT IN CASE CAMBODIANS ONLY RESETTLEMENT LIMITED NUMBERS ENVISAGEABLE THIS STAGE. RE LAOTIONS SITUATION MUCH MORE COMPLEX AS EXPLAINED BELOW.

C. GOVERNMENT AGREES CENTRAL ROLE FOR UNHCR IN PROMOTION OF REPATRIATION AND RESETTLEMENT. PENDING PERMANENT SOLUTION GOVERNMENT WISHES RECEIVED ASSISTANCE CARE AND MAINTENANCE WITHIN OVERALL CONTEXT MENTIONED ABOVE.

D. CARE AND MAINTENANCE WHICH IN FACT "ASSISTANCE PENDING DURABLE SOLUTION" EXPECTED MAINLY IN FOLLOWING DOMAINS: FOOD, MEDICAL CARE, SHELTER, CLOTHING IN THAT ORDER.

E. GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS ALL INDOCHINESE AS "DISPLACED PERSONS" AND NOT REFUGEES AND NOT BEING CONSCIOUS UNHCR ROLE IN INDOCHINA EXPECTS UNHCR PLAY POSITIVE ROLE IN SHARING BURDEN WITH GOVERNMENT.

F. GOVERNMENT OVERALL PLANS BEING ELABORATED BY MINISTRY INTERIOR, COMMITTEE FOR DISPLACED PERSON. MINIMUM EXPENDITURES AT PRESENT PER PERSON PER DAY ESTIMATED EIGHT BAHT, I.E. 40 US CENTS. BOTH GOVERNMENT AND UNHCR BELIEVE LEVEL ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE MINIMUM IN ORDER AVOID SOCIAL AND INTERCOMMUNAL FRICTIONS WITHIN COUNTRY AND AVOID CREATION "PROFESSIONAL REFUGEES".

G. GOVERNMENT PLANNING ASSEMBLE ALL INDOCHINESE IN WELL IDENTIFIED FOUR TO SIX AREAS/CAMPS AND AGREES UNHCR VISITS THESE AREAS. THIS CONNECTION GOVERNMENT ISSUING 15 JULY OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION DEFINING PROBLEM DISPLACED PERSONS AND ASKING ALL ILLEGAL ENTRANTS RPT ENTRANTS TO REGISTER WITH IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES WITHIN ONE MONTH IN ORDER EVENTUALLY CONFIDENTIAL

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TO ASSEMBLE THEM IN WELL DEFINED AREAS.

2. UNHCR POSITION WAS EXPLAINED AS FOLLOWS:

A. WILLING ASSIST GOVERNMENT PROMOTE DURABLE SOLUTIONS.

B. WILLING CONTACT COUNTRIES FOR RESETTLEMENT

AND TO EXTENT POSSIBLE PARTIES CONCERNED FOR  
REPATRIATION.

C. ARE WRITING TO GOVERNMENT EXPLAINING SCOPE AND  
MODALITIES UNHCR ASSISTANCE AND SUBMITTING DRAFT  
AGREEMENTS BASED ON EXCHANGE OF LETTERS SAME MODEL  
AS IN INDOCHINA IN ORDER FINALIZE AND HOPEFULLY  
CONCLUDE AGREEMENT NEXT WEEK.

D. WILLING MAKE PRELIMINARY ALLOCATION 10 MILLION  
BAHT, I.E. APPROXIMATELY HALF MILLION DOLLARS IN  
ORDER START WORK FORTHWITH.

3. RE LAOTIANS IN THAILAND EXACT TOTAL NUMBER STILL  
UNCERTAIN AND VARIES ACCORDING SOURCE INFORMATION.  
LAOTIAN DISPLACED PERSONS DIVIDED IN THREE CATEGORIES:  
(1) ETHNIC LAO WHICH SMALL GROUP NOT EXCEEDING 500;  
(2) THAI DAM BIGGER GROUP BUT NOT EXCEEDING 2,000;  
(3) BIGGEST GROUP MEO NUMBER VARIES FROM 9,000 TO  
18,000 DEPENDING SOURCE INFORMATION. NATURALLY MEO  
GROUP REPRESENTS MOST COMPLEX PROBLEM AND ALL KINDS  
OF THEORIES CIRCULATING REGARDING THEIR PRESENT  
AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER PUBLICLY THAI AND  
LAO GOVERNMENTS FAVOR REPATRIATION. DURING DISCUSSIONS  
AGREED UNHCR APPROACH LAO GOVERNMENT IN ORDER PROMOTE  
REPATRIATION. MATTER ALREADY DISCUSSED VIENTIANE  
AND WILL REQUIRE FOLLOW-UP BY CUENOD. OBVIOUSLY  
OVERALL QUESTION LAOTIAN DISPLACED PERSONS WILL  
REQUIRE CLOSE CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION BOTH  
GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED.

4. NUMBER CAMBODIANS ACCORDING THAI AUTHORITIES  
APPROXIMATELY 7,000. INFLUX AT REDUCED LEVEL STILL  
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CONTINUING. GOVERNMENT REALIZES PERMANENT SOLUTION  
FOR ALL MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE NEAR FUTURE.

5. NUMBER SOUTH VIETNAMESE APPROXIMATELY 1,500.  
EXPECT RESETTLEMENT MAINLY USA AND REPATRIATION WILL  
SOLVE PROBLEM.

6. FOR NEXT WEEK MEETING ORGANIZED WITH ALL  
CONCERNED IN BANGKOK TO REVIEW OVERALL SITUATION  
UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP THAI RED CROSS. PARTICIPANTS WILL  
BE REPRESENTATIVES MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
MINISTRY INTERIOR, UNHCR, ICEM AND INTERNATIONAL  
RED CROSS. ALSO EXPECT NEXT WEEK COMPLETE ALL  
ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMENCEMENT IMPORTANT UNHCR  
PROGRAM IN THAILAND IN LINE WITH PRELIMINARY PLANNING

DONE AT HEADQUARTERS AFTER WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS  
AND AS DEFINED UNDER 2 ABOVE.UNQUOTEABRAMS

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** SREF, TH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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